

MORMON HOUSE
BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN
2 miles N. of
Racine Co.

H.A.B.S. NO. WIS:130

HABS
WIS.

51- BURL.V,

1-

◀ PHOTOGRAPHS ▶

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO 28

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey
Alexander C. Guth ◀ District Officer
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

MORMON HOUSE
Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin

Owner (or Custodian). Unknown

Date of Erection. 1844

Architect. Not known.

Builder. Not known.

Present Condition. Good

Number of Stories. One and one-half.

Materials of Construction. Local stone walls. Wood cornice
and trim.

Other Existing Records. None known

Additional Data. (See following pages)

THE MORMON COTTAGE NEAR BURLINGTON.

About 1840 a group of Mormons, of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, founded a settlement in Wisconsin. The place selected was about two miles north of the city of Burlington. The group was headed ~~up~~ by one named James Jesse Strang, a self appointed tempestuous leader, sometimes referred to as "The Prophet." During the time the Mormons were located at this place, which they called Voree, they erected a number of stone structures. These are still standing today after a lapse of almost a century. They also started to build a tabernacle. The outside walls of this structure are double. But these were only carried up to a height of four feet above the grade when the work was abandoned. Before the Mormons were located here very long, serious friction developed between them and other sects. This finally resulted in the withdrawal of the Mormons. In 1847, happily singing hymns, they left their Garden of Peace (Voree) with all their earthly belongings, cattle, hens and what not, and moved to an island in Lake Michigan.

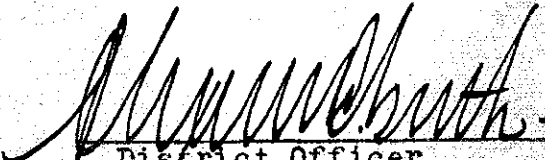
The settlement near Burlington consisted at one time of about a dozen or more structures. These included a blacksmith shop, a store, school house, a tithing post and numerous barns besides the house which this survey concerns most. The stone for all these

structures was quarried ~~in a~~ nearby quarry. It is of a beautiful golden yellow color, and, strange to say, when the Mormons moved away, the quarry too was abandoned. Only in recent years (1933) has the quarry again been worked. The houses were built completely of this stone. They are plain, substantial little structures, rather picturesque in appearance. Most of them have simple ridge roofs. The windows are interesting and well proportioned. No elaboration whatsoever is found ~~in~~ at these old time structures, not even at the main entrances which in all other places in the state one finds ornamented.

The building which this survey is especially interested in was the home of Deacon Strang who was the father of the leader of the cult. The house was built in 1844. Before the Mormons left for other climes, this house was used as a printing office. It should be recorded that there was published for the benefit of these colonists a weekly paper called the Voree Gospel Herald.

Much has been written about this interesting colonization of early Wisconsin, yet most of the writers have overlooked the fact that these early settlers made a distinct contribution to the architecture of Wisconsin. There is not much left of what they erected, in fact

there was never very much when the quantity is considered, but nevertheless when quality is, the same amounts to considerable. So let it finally be registered that these modest, puritanical houses possess much charm and interest and are most distinctive.


District Officer.